

Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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"All one knows about a child is what makes him considered a child. One doesn't see the Eternal Being who is ageless and whose fires smolder in the depth of their souls, big and little. One can never know whether or not the fire is going to spring up."—ROMAIN ROLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MEMPHIS, MAY 7, 1928

This report will chronicle in brief words the history of the League's year since the annual meeting in Des Moines.

1. *Personnel Changes.*—The general policies of the League have not changed but we have some important changes in personnel.

Miss Ethel Taylor's health did not improve, as it was hoped it might, and she has now permanently left the employ of the League. Mr. C. W. Areson has been on leave of absence since October 1st, as Secretary of the Wisconsin Children's Code Committee, and does not return to the League's staff, as he has accepted the position of Executive Secretary of the Houston (Texas) Children's Service Bureau, to begin work October 1st.

2. *Studies and Demonstrations.*—Our demonstration in Rochester, New York, in connection with the Children's Aid Society, with Mr. Alfred F. Whitman in charge, has been brought to a close, and a demonstration is now under way in developing social service in connection with the Franklin County Children's Home at Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Wyatt being in charge.

Our work in connection with the St. Louis survey is nearly done, as is also the work in Tulsa, Oklahoma. An intake study of Children's Village at Dobbs Ferry, New York, has just been completed. Studies, surveys or demonstrations are to be undertaken in New York, Chicago, Kenosha, Wisconsin, Indianapolis, and other places during the coming year.

3. *Developments in the Field.*—In spite of all the disturbing elements with reference to staff, finances and lack of sufficient personnel for the work to be done by the League, we believe more progress in the children's field has been made this year in the country as a whole than during any one of the six years of the League's previous history. A larger number of non-League members dealing with children have sought our help than in any year previously. Many more institutions have come for interpretation of case work values and for getting case work staffs than previously, a larger

number of church agencies or institutions have sought help than previously, and a number of children's institutions have made social service to children their objective, the institution becoming a part of the service rather than the whole of it. This results in a better understanding of the needs of the individual children, socially, physically and emotionally.

A number of institutions have selected as their executives persons who were experienced in case work as well as in institutional administration, a step forward in the development of the children's field, the importance of which cannot be over-emphasized. The possibility of this step should lead us to consider in every case where the organization of a children's case work agency is under consideration, finding an institution which is willing to be the nucleus for such a service and which will add a good grade of case work to its program.

Last year Mr. Hopkirk of our staff made a brief study of all the fifteen children's institutions identified with the Southern Presbyterian Church. This year a more careful study of these same institutions is under way. A similar study is contemplated by the Presbyterian Church (North) and is likely to be embarked upon this fall. We believe the making of these requests for service is a sign of the times as well as an indication of the service the League is able to render. In this way we have the opportunity of definitely helping to shape the policy of large church bodies in their relations to dependent and neglected children.

4. *Institutes and Conferences.*—The first Child Welfare Institute of the League was held last June for three weeks, seventeen persons attending during the full period. A second institute is planned for the coming June. It is intended for executives and supervisors of case work, but a few well-qualified senior visitors will also be eligible. Fifteen have so far been accepted for this year's institute. There is room for a few more eligibles. Case work technique and administration as it applies to both institutions and agencies will be the principal topics discussed.

5. *Finances.*—The method of financing the League adopted last year, namely, that of asking member agencies to assist with quota contributions, has been accepted on the whole so generally that we feel much encouraged. The general principle of public and private agencies, whether in chest cities or not, paying some-

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HOW TO KNOW A FOSTER FAMILY

PART II

(Concluded from April issue)

CHARLOTTE TOWLE, *Director*

Home Finding Department, Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania

It is well to consider the early experience of both Mr. and Mrs. Hastings, for they are highly significant in relation to what each brought to the marital situation as contributing factors in the subsequent maladjustment.

Mr. Hastings was born on a Kansas farm. He lost both parents during his infancy and was reared by his grandparents. He was fond of his grandmother, whom he described as the only woman who had ever understood him. He was not fond of his grandfather, with whom he had considerable friction—in fact, he left home at seventeen, following a quarrel with him. On leaving home he was a nomadic farm laborer for a number of years. He picked up the trade of carpenter, which work he followed for eight or nine years. In spite of the fact that he was nomadic, he got ahead in this trade and at the time of his enlistment in the service he was foreman contractor in a construction company.

Following a quarrel with his boss he left his good job in the construction company to enlist in the Marines. He enjoyed the service, the hobnobbing with men, the adventure, and stated wistfully that he would like to have remained in the service. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and it is significant that during his service period he did not drink. He left the Marines after becoming engaged to his wife, who was the first woman he ever loved.

Mrs. Hastings was born in Philadelphia. She belonged to a closely knit family in which there was considerable centering in her, because she was fifteen years the junior of her older sister who married at an early age. The father was a successful contract painter, a good churchman, the treasurer of his church, a conservative, dominating man who was quite possessive in his attitude toward his family. Mrs. Hastings received a high school education followed by business college. She was deeply religious and dutiful; she did not dance nor go out with men; she admired her father and held him as a model morally. She compared herself to her father in regard to her religious nature and her capacity for thrift. At the time of the original contact, in spite of a relatively small income, she had accrued savings of about \$5,000, and had practically paid for their home, through what she termed conscientious management.

Now as for the developments following marriage. Mrs. Hastings was a scrupulous housekeeper, a very efficient manager. She planned the household budget, waited on her husband hand and foot, took the initia-

tive in buying the home, returning to work in order to meet these responsibilities. She bought him a Ford on the agreement that he would pay half, but assumed his share when he fell down on his payments. She considered him a "diamond in the rough" and tried very hard to refine him. Her friends all spoke of the social inequality of the two, and of her efforts to improve his table manners. They went out among her friends a great deal the first two years of their marriage and entertained considerably, during which time she was critical of him because of his unsociability and crude ways. She was evasive on the subject of sex, but intimated that her husband was sexually unresponsive and showed marked emotion because they did not have children.

Mr. Hastings did not drink for two years after his marriage. He took an active part in the remodeling of their home, although he did not co-operate in saving money or in financing them. He was surly and resentful when with her friends, and sought his own men friends quite frequently. He expressed hatred of the East and contempt for Eastern social customs in contrast to the free and easy ways of the West. Gradually there began to be a more frequent drifting off to his own friends with an outward expression of antagonism to her friends. Mrs. Hastings applied for a child for adoption at a time when Mr. Hastings had left home, supposedly not to return. She was financially able to care for a child and was convinced that she would have much to offer in the way of love and good upbringing, spiritually and morally.

In this marital situation one could have predicted that the placement of a child in this home would be inadvisable. If the father remained away, this mother, due to the intensity of her emotional needs, would tend to compensate for the deprived and thwarted love life of her marriage by centering on a child. The chances would be, however, that the father would return, for a review of the past has shown that he has repeatedly gone away and that she has not been able to deny him the privilege of returning. With the father in the home we would have, since he is a child who looks to her as to a mother, acute competition between the child and the father. Since the father's failure to satisfy his wife has been the determining factor in driving her to secure a child, the chances are in favor of the child winning first place.

Because Mrs. Hastings seemed to offer so much to a child, one was placed during an emergency, on the supposition that the father might not return. Exactly what had been predicted happened. A boy of school age was placed. Mr. Hastings returned home. Mrs. Hastings has centered in the boy, which relationship gives promise of being an unhealthy one, for it will not encourage growth, because his dependence on her is too

satisfying. Mr. Hastings' flight reactions have been more intensive than we predicted. Unemployment increased from the start, while for some months he has stayed home in complete dependence upon her, making no effort whatever to secure a job. He spends most of the time in his room, surly and despondent. He reads some, but daydreams more than formerly. His only plan for the future is a visionary, ill-grounded one of becoming rich through an invention. His need for alcohol has become so intense that he recently stole from her when she would not give him the money. Thus, in competing with the rival child he has regressed to an extremely infantile state. In ignoring a maladjusted marriage, the relations of the couple concerned have been damaged rather than benefited, while the outlook for the boy is not promising.

It is therefore necessary, both in justice to the foster family as well as to the child, to secure an understanding of marital relations. In doing this one must study the past history of each individual, for an appreciation of what each brings to the marital situation, particularly in reference to their own early parental relationships, for these relationships will be a gauge of their own maturity or immaturity.

(Continued from page 1)

thing for consultation or other service is more widespread than we had supposed even when the method adopted was urged upon our members. This is in the nature of a contribution to national agencies.

There are in our membership agencies that have constituencies that are hostile to making such contributions and others have situations making it very difficult for them to contribute as agencies. May I ask these to plan with us, if possible, so that we can obtain some support in other ways in their communities? We would not want to embarrass an agency or institution by anything that looks like insistence upon quota contributions, much as we need them.

May I also say with sincerity and perfect candor that the service the League renders to member agencies shall as far as I can control it have no relationship to the amount of contribution or even a failure to contribute to our budget? Whatever the situation is in reference to member contributions, the financial department and my own office are physically as far apart as they can very well be. This is merely to illustrate our attempt not to be influenced in our response by what may be your ability or your lack to respond to our financial need.

We come to the annual meeting to hear of what has happened but we come also to look forward with assurance into the new year, and I believe this year is a particularly promising one for the League.

C. C. CARSTENS.

THE LEAGUE ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1928-1929

The formalities necessary to the incorporation of the Child Welfare League of America were completed with the adoption of a new constitution at the annual meeting in Memphis on May 7th. The board of directors of the new corporation consists of the following persons:

Term expiring 1929

Miss Rhoda Kaufman	Mrs. Ruth I. Workum
Paul T. Beisser	Mrs. Helen T. Woolley
Jacob Kepecs	Miss Mary Labaree

Ralph Barrow

Term expiring 1930

Miss Caroline M. Crosby	Miss Katherine F. Lenroot
Mrs. Gertrude M. Dubinsky	Mrs. Charles R. Peck
Cheney C. Jones	Miss Ruth Taylor

C. V. Williams

Term expiring 1931

Miss Louise Drury	J. Prentice Murphy
Mrs. Charles S. Hopkinson	W. Frank Persons
Owen R. Lovejoy	Albert H. Stoneman

Miss Charlotte Whitton

The members of the Executive Committee are:

Albert H. Stoneman, Chairman	Owen R. Lovejoy
J. Prentice Murphy, Vice-Chairman	Miss Ruth Taylor
Paul T. Beisser	Mrs. Charles R. Peck
Mrs. Gertrude M. Dubinsky	
Cheney C. Jones	

The new officers are listed at the top of Page 4.

The annual meeting of the League, which was a dinner meeting, was attended by over two hundred and fifty people. Mr. Albert H. Stoneman, Mr. Henry W. Thurston and Miss Rhoda Kaufman spoke on, Trends in Children's Work, pointing out particularly the better understanding between child-placing agencies and institutions and the growing shift in emphasis from loyalty to a certain form of organization to a greater integrity in meeting the needs of individual children.

The annual report of the Executive Director appears elsewhere in this BULLETIN. The financial report will appear in the June issue.

Every national conference has its own keynote but sometimes different individuals catch varying overtones. Our own "tuning in" apparatus repeatedly picked up two messages during the week in Memphis. The first of these was that social workers at some time or other may need social service quite as much as any one else and that none of us know at what moment some trick of fate may shove us across the shadowy line which separates folks who are getting along on their own from the "clients" of social agencies.

The second message which came from the psychiatrists was that social workers must examine their own attitudes and be willing to face their own foibles and prejudices—in short, to know themselves—before they can be properly qualified to help other people successfully.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
1st Vice-President—J. PRENTICE MURPHY, Philadelphia
2nd Vice-President—REV. M. L. KESLER, Thomasville, N. C.
3rd Vice-President—MRS. LESSING ROSENWALD, Philadelphia
Secretary—MISS JESSIE P. CONDIT, Newark
Treasurer—JOSEPH E. BOLDING, Corn Exchange Bank, New York
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS

RECREATION AT PARMADALE

Parmadale, a Catholic institution for dependent boys, occupies a beautiful wooded scope of land on the outskirts of Cleveland. Sister Carmelita, the superintendent, was asked to furnish an article on Recreation for the BULLETIN. The Mistress of Recreation, at the request of Sister Carmelita, prepared the following interesting account of the recreational program at Parmadale.

It is not rare to see a boy placed in an institution cry. The heartache of homesickness, the trials and crosses of boyhood, the difficulties of discipline, are just about what visitors to an institution expect. It happened just recently that a visitor was being shown through Parmadale. She lost her interest in the buildings, fine furniture, kitchen equipment, clinic routine, etc., and her mind and heart too became centered on a boy and a social worker standing in front of the office. The boy, Mike by name, was weeping bitterly. And no doubt the visitor's heart went out to him as she remarked thoughtfully—"isn't it too bad—that poor boy—no home—his dear little heart just breaking?" As we approached closer, we heard the boy sob hopefully, "Please, Miss, let me stay just to-day. Gee! the Army plays Yale this afternoon and I play half-back on the Army team. If you just wait till after the game I'll go along. Please, Miss, come back tonight." The social worker understood, having encountered the same difficulty in getting boys to leave Parmadale willingly—but the visitor—well—she saw the crying boy as she anticipated. But her "Orphant Annie" attitude was somewhat upset when I explained to her that the boy now running off joyfully to the football field did not want to leave.

As we visited a few more cottages, the laundry, the dining hall, I could see that her interest was elsewhere. And her remarks were not at all concerned with the things she saw the rest of the afternoon. She had seen but a small sample of the spirit of Parmadale and the material excellence of our institution received small compliment. That "wonderful spirit" which she began to read in the faces of the children, in the freedom of their conduct, was the only topic then worth while.

We are told that if we hear a thing often enough we

begin to believe it—the more readily if complimentary. Being somewhat institutionalized, I took the "Spirit of Parmadale" as a matter of course, completely unconscious of the excellence so apparent to others. But so many visitors seemingly honest in other respects and not given to empty compliment have praised the spirit of Parmadale that it is but natural that the reason for this spirit be investigated.

Amid the varied activities of Parmadale one is at a loss to point to any particular phase of Parmadale training as the reason for the spirit which we are told is different. The religious and moral training we have in common with many other Catholic institutions of the country. The atmosphere of virtue, kindness, charity and love we share with all institutions directed by the Sisters. The educational program is much the same as in the parochial and public schools throughout the country. The approach to home spirit which the cottage plan makes possible, the medical attention and dietary care, all contribute to the birth of the spirit of Parmadale—but the boy in the opening chapter, I think, gives the real reason. "The Army plays Yale this afternoon and I play half-back on the Army."

The program of boy training which omits supervised and organized recreation and play is, to say the least, antiquated. The need, the utility of play, I take it, is recognized by all. Whole libraries have been written on the moral and mental, physical and social advantages of organized recreation for boys and the boys of institutions are no different from others. In the following paragraphs I shall make no philosophical investigation of the playful nature of boys. The fitness of play to develop those sterling qualities so admirable in American boyhood, loyalty, co-operation, obedience, manliness, aggressiveness and fair play—must be in this day admitted by all. It remains now for me to merely outline the Parmadale play and recreation program which has met with some measure of success in making Parmadale a delightful substitute for a good home.

I. PERSONNEL.—a. The writer happens to be Mistress of Recreation and Play and it is up to her "to keep things going."

b. In the summer months we employ a "college hero" as playground director. The program of the playground is much the same as that of the city playgrounds. During the past year the playground director has been devoting two evenings a week to coaching a varsity squad in football, basketball and baseball.

c. An assistant play director who lives on the premises and devotes about four hours each evening to the supervision of the boys' play.

d. A physical director who conducts two gym classes on Friday evenings.

e. I might mention also, forty Sisters, school teachers,

cottage mistresses, nurses and dietitians who have schooled themselves to love boys' games and who, by their presence, even cheering sometimes, stimulate the boys to greater interest.

II. EQUIPMENT.—a. A gymnasium—equipped with facilities for basketball, gym classes, theatricals, movies, etc.

b. A playground—equipped with sufficient swings, slides, sand boxes, traveling rings, ropes, ladders, turning poles, etc.

c. Playground—enclosed for small children and suitably equipped.

d. Four baseball diamonds.

e. Two football gridirons.

f. Two volley ball courts.

g. Four horse-shoe courts.

h. One skating pond.

The premises of one hundred eighty-eight acres, partly wooded, affords excellent hills for skiing and coasting in the winter, as well as ample opportunity for hikes, nature study, etc., in the summer. Two miles of smooth roadway is found useful by the roller skaters, scooters and bicyclists.

For the quieter forms of recreation Santa Claus usually equips each cottage with all the toys and games which are suitable for indoor recreation—checkers, cards, mechanical toys, etc. Many of the boys have small radios and are encouraged "to tinker" with them. A large portable radio in the school hall is used for the better programs of general interest to the boys.

The school teachers and cottage mistresses co-operate to supply the boys with books for leisure time reading. Each cottage has a permanent library of boys' classics, while the Cuyahoga County Library Association keeps about one thousand volumes of boys' books in circulation. Last year they reported that the books read averaged fourteen per boy.

Besides these forms of quiet recreation which are, after all, rather individualistic—an effort is made to develop the social side of the boys by encouraging them to visit their friends in the neighboring cottages. Hallowe'en, Valentine Day, the Christmas season, St. Patrick's Day, etc., are made the occasion of house parties and inter-cottage entertainment. During the summer months the monotony of the "dining hall routine" is frequently relieved by serving supper in the light of the "Campfire," which also serves on these occasions to light up the boyish theatricals which usually accompany a "Weenie Roast." Sometimes the whole group is served supper in this way. At other times a single cottage goes off into the woods to enjoy an outdoor supper.

A teacher of expression and dramatic arts is employed part time. One of the Sisters teaches choral singing of

a lighter sort. With these two departments separated as they are from actual school work, they take on much the character of recreation and the boys take a bit of pride in the fact that they can stage a rather delightful performance of band music, vocal and instrumental selections and dramatic parts on a very short notice.

III. MOTIVATION AND ORGANIZATION.—Under this heading we have grouped all of those intangibles which tend to interest a boy in play and teach him to play correctly. This might include even the weather, the change of seasons with its accompanying change of interests from swimming and tops to skating and skis.

In the competitive sports, such as football, baseball, basketball, volley ball, etc., there are organized two intra-mural leagues, junior and senior, at the beginning of each successive season. A third league for minors is also formed whenever the number of players warrants it. Eight to ten seems to be the most desirable number of teams for a league. A schedule of games is drawn up for each league so that each team plays every other team in the league. After this first series the teams are only partially disbanded, enough players remaining to maintain the identity of the original team for the second half, which is a repetition of the same schedule. Then in each league the winner of the first half plays the winner of the second half in what has come to be known at Parmadale as the "World Series." This is usually a grand climax to the season. This we find very stimulating. The object of these intra-mural leagues is to encourage as many boys as possible to take an active interest and part in sports. This year, for example, every boy, who was in the opinion of the physician physically fit, played on some team.

Besides the intra-mural league teams we have a varsity team which competes with the parochial and public school teams of the city. The Parmadale representative team, for example, this year played in the Knights of Columbus Junior League—as well as playing through the elimination tournament of St. Ignatius High School. In the encouragement of these various teams as well as for the development of school spirit, all the tricks and paraphernalia of the big colleges are employed—cheer leaders, rallies, pep-meetings, posters, parades, etc.

An effort is made to develop true manly sportsmanship by insisting in season and out of season that victory alone is not the sole objective of a real American sportsman. Victory honorably merited is held up as the ideal and aim of each participant. Fair play, obedience to the rule of the game, gentlemanly but keen rivalry has come to be under this system quite a commonplace at Parmadale.

Competition and rivalry are also stimulated by a

generous awarding of prizes. There is some prize offered, advertised and on display all during the various contests. In this connection we might mention that the Knights of Columbus of Cleveland put on an annual Field Day for the boys on the Saturday after Labor Day. On this occasion numerous prizes are awarded to the boys who have excelled in the various activities of the playground during the vacation: a bicycle being awarded to the boy who, in the opinion of all the Sisters, the boys, and the playground director, was the best all-around boy of the year.

The boys are encouraged to take an interest in the recreational activities of the world outside. The sport pages of the daily papers are made accessible and are well thumbed. The October "World Series" in baseball is made an excuse to dismiss the older boys earlier from school for a radio reception of the game. During the baseball season the boys are frequent guests of the Cleveland Baseball Club. During the football season the Parmadale Boys' Band played and paraded at all the home games of John Carroll University. Many of the non-band boys were invited to attend. An average of one hundred twenty boys "took turns" in going on the long bus ride to witness their games. These were the occasions of great excitement and, needless to say, preparatory good conduct on the part of the boys—"just before the outside games I am as good as I can be." It might be remarked here in passing that we have very little difficulty with discipline; and real recreation and play account in no small measure for its absence. John Carroll University showed the same interest in the boys in coming to Parmadale Gymnasium to play exhibition games in basketball, coaching the boys—showing them the tricks of the various games—in general, giving the boys a stimulating "close-up" of their heroes.

Needless to say, the boys have imitated in their own way all that they have seen and heard of the things that make for spirit in a great college. What with the antics of youthful cheerleaders, the contagious enthusiasm of "spirit songs" and yells—the amusement of "tincan parades"—Parmadale with its ideal, "every boy a player or a fan," never gets dull.

"Please, Miss, can't I stay?"

Dr. A. T. Jamison, head of Connie Maxwell Orphanage in South Carolina, in his book, "The Institution for Children," says:

"The good Lord in sending children into the world usually allows only a few to each mother. In our abnormal work we have tried to economize money and have done what nature never attempts to do. We try to make one mother take care of twenty-five children and in a building that is not constructed to meet their needs."

WHAT IS IMPORTANT?

Some people say—

It is the locality that is most important in selecting foster homes for children.

Some people say—

It is the house that is most important in selecting the foster home.

But we say—

It is the mother in the home that is most important. You may choose the most ideal locality, the most spacious home, furnish it with a view to giving comfort and cheer, but all this is secondary if the spirit of the foster mother is not the right one. You may take a crowded city home, a rather bleakly furnished one, and if the mother has understanding and love and warmth the child will thrive. Experience has proven that first comes the foster mother.—HEBREW SHELTERING GUARDIAN SOCIETY, The Home Bureau, New York, N. Y.

SPRING CLEANING

Along with the tendency to reach all the corners and unnecessary accumulations in hiding, we are planning a step in preventive medicine, and in the near future hope to bring all the children under boarding care to the Well Children's Clinic, beginning a semi-annual check on their health, growth and general development.—HENRY WATSON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, Baltimore, Maryland.

MATERNITY AND CHILD HYGIENE

The admission of Oklahoma to the United States birth-registration area has been announced by the Bureau of the Census. With the addition of Oklahoma the birth registration area now includes 42 states and the District of Columbia, or 92 per cent of the total estimated population of the United States.

CHILD LABOR AND EDUCATION

The constitutionality of the law requiring boys and girls under the age of 17 who have left full-time school for work to attend day continuation school one day a week was upheld by a recent decision of the appellate division of the New York Supreme Court. The case involved a boy who wished to substitute attendance at night school for day continuation school attendance.—(New York Times, April 3, 1928.)

One of the many "shop-talk" breakfasts at Memphis was the one at which training for cottage mothers was discussed. A group of about thirty people had been planned for, but more than sixty attended. A résumé of the discussion will appear in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

ECHOES FROM THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF SOCIAL WORK

The three meetings of the Child Welfare League of America at Memphis made it possible to continue the discussion of topics presented at the regular meetings of the Children's Division of the Conference. The values and applications of case work in the children's field, health service and the inter-play between state departments and child-caring agencies and institutions were the focal points around which discussion centered.

Probably the greatest contribution of the League meetings was the stimulation given to thinking about the similarities existing in the various types of children's organizations rather than emphasizing the differences. At the first session Mr. Carstens enumerated what he regards as outstanding features common both to children's institutions and to child-placing agencies and aid societies. These include:

I. *Intake Service*

- (a) Effort to conserve the child's family
- (b) Study of individual needs
- (c) Use of other agencies
- (d) Adapting service to child's needs

II. *Health Service*

- (a) Isolation and immunization
- (b) Discovering remediable health conditions
- (c) Providing necessary corrective treatment
- (d) Health follow-up and periodic re-examinations

III. *The Period of Care of the Child*

- (a) The necessity for homelike conditions and surroundings
- (b) A diet adapted to age and needs
- (c) Adapted educational program
- (d) Recreational opportunities
- (e) Community contacts

IV. *Readjustment into Family and Community*

- (a) Keeping continuous contact with own family
- (b) Vocational adjustment
- (c) Establishing or re-establishing family ties and community contacts

V. *Personnel Problems Common to both Institutions and Agencies*

- (a) Personality of workers
- (b) Character
- (c) Health
- (d) Training
- (e) Relief and vacations
- (f) Remuneration

Mrs. Charles R. Peck, Church Home Society, 41 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, Mass., is the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements for the New England Regional Conference which will be held during the fall of 1928. Inquiries regarding the conference should be addressed to Mrs. Peck.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

During the National Conference, Miss Lundberg arranged for a meeting of state departments belonging to the League in order to discuss the amount and kind of statistical data now being secured from child-caring institutions and agencies, the use being made of such information by the various departments and what more should be done in connection with gathering and compiling statistics.

Representatives from twelve states were present at the meeting. The discussion brought out the fact that there was little uniformity either in procedure or the kind of information requested by state departments. In view of this situation it was moved and carried that the board of directors of the League be asked to arrange for a study of reporting by institutions and agencies to state departments in order (a) to aid the various states in improving their methods of collecting information, (b) to assist institutions and agencies in supplying data required, and (c) to assist both state departments and private organizations in interpreting and using the material secured.

CHANGES FOR THE DIRECTORY

MASSACHUSETTS.—The Children's Aid Association of Hampshire County has moved its office to Central Chambers, 16 Center Street, Northampton, Massachusetts.

WISCONSIN.—The Children's Home Society of Wisconsin has changed its name to the Children's Home and Aid Society of Wisconsin.

NEW MEMBERS

CONNECTICUT.—The Children's Village of the Hartford Orphan Asylum (D), Hartford, Connecticut—Miss Elsie L. Burks, Superintendent.

OHIO.—The Children's Bureau of Dayton (A), 243 North St. Clair Street, Dayton, Ohio—Miss Merle E. MacMahon, Executive Secretary.

TENNESSEE.—The Children's Bureau, Inc. (A), 323-325½ Derman Building, Memphis, Tennessee—Miss Elise de la Fontaine, Director.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members only)

Report of the Children's Bureau of Cleveland, 1921-1928.

"Serving Children in 1927." Ninety-fifth report of The Children's Community Center of the New Haven Orphan Asylum, mailed from institution direct to member agencies of the League.

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

President: DR. GEORGE B. MANGOLD, St. Louis, Mo.
Vice-President: MISS LOUISE DRURY, Los Angeles, Cal.
Secretary: MISS ELEANOR D. MYERS, St. Louis, Mo.
Treasurer: MISS HERTHA MILLER, St. Louis, Mo.

The Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy held its annual meeting at the Catholic Club in Memphis on May 8, with one hundred and fifty in attendance.

In addition to routine business, reports were given from the local conferences in St. Louis, Cleveland and Boston. In St. Louis the Illegitimacy Committee of the Children's Department of the Community Council acts as the local Conference on Illegitimacy having the same status as other committees of departments. Membership is not limited to agencies who are members of the Community Council but includes representatives from Maternity Homes, Hospital Social Service Agencies, Child Caring Agencies and two Family Welfare Agencies. Their accomplishments for 1927-1928 include:

1. Appointment of a sub-committee which has succeeded in securing the co-operation and interest of a Maternity Home for colored girls.

2. Appointment of a sub-committee to work toward securing better co-operation through the State Child Placing Agency and Children's Bureau with the local communities throughout the state.

3. Drafting of more adequate legislation for presentation at the next session of the Missouri legislature with plans for educational publicity preceding introduction of the bill.

Cleveland reported a membership of 85, working under the Study Group plan, whereby each group was held responsible for the program of one meeting during the year.

1. Study Group on Adoptions outlined a statement of the principles of adoption, showing the rights and obligations of the five parties concerned in any adoption proceeding—Child, Natural Parents, Foster Parents, Agency authorized to accept child for adoption, and the State itself. As a result of this discussion certain definite recommendations are to be made to the Court handling adoptions.

2. Study Group on Inter-City Relations after an analysis of illegitimate births in Cleveland in 1926, held conference with hospitals and maternity homes in the city and as a result is now studying the birth certificate blank in the hope of ultimately making more uniform the interpretation of the questions and the general procedure.

3. Study Group of Maternity Homes worked out a plan of co-operation between their institutions and the City Contagious Disease Hospital.

Boston, with a membership of seventy-two women from organizations dealing with the unmarried mother and her child, held five meetings during the year to study adoptions. This Conference had the benefit of Miss Ida Parker's experience in this discussion and considered questions from the following standpoints:

1. Program for Safeguarding Adoptions
2. Private Adoption Agency

3. Unmarried Father

4. Comparison of Present Methods with those of Ten Years Ago. Twenty-five agencies took part in the comparison discussion and concluded that real advancement had been made in case standards and in efforts to meet the individual needs of the client.

The Conference was of the opinion that better correlation between member agencies was advisable and suggested the following questions:

1. What has become of the illegitimate child from five to seven years?

2. What is the maximum of success in determining paternity?

PROBLEMS OF ILLEGITIMACY

(Excerpts from a paper given by Miss Emma S. Hardcastle, Georgia Children's Home Society at Memphis.)

Social agencies have recently given much study to the problems of the unmarried mother with a view to determining causative factors, ways of prevention and wiser handling of these cases. The Georgia Children's Home Society covers the entire state but gives more intensive service in some localities than others due to local demand and appreciation. Most of our unmarried mothers, wherever their homes may be, come to our attention from three cities, Atlanta, Savannah and Macon. Georgia has no residence law, but we have assumed the right to return these girls to their homes and have steadily refused to accept for placement children whose parents have residence in other states.

With the exception of a Florence Crittenden Home in Atlanta and a Rescue Home in Macon, Georgia has no resources for caring for mother and baby except in employment placement. Our first reliance is on household work where the mother may have her child with her. This is obviously unsuitable work for many girls and we then seek private boarding home care for the child while the mother is employed. Every effort is made to have mother and child board in the same home if possible. We have no set rules of procedure but what we advise and do depends on all the circumstances surrounding the particular individual with whom we are working.

To strengthen our own service we need—

1. More adequate follow-up to be sure of the readjustment of the mother and child in the home and in the community.

2. Recreational facilities that reach the rural districts, the small towns and villages.

3. Better schools and the enforcement of attendance laws so that our children leave school with more resources within themselves.

4. Change in public opinion so that the young mother feels she can win back respect if she shows herself able and willing to face her problem squarely.

5. A law whereby it is illegal for the parent of a child born out of wedlock to surrender it outside of its immediate family without the consent of a court of proper jurisdiction.

6. Legislation to establish paternity and to enforce support.

7. More adequate State supervision for the segregation and training of the feeble-minded.—RUTH COLBY.